

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-19 are currently pending in this application. Applicant's kindly request that the Examiner consider the following new arguments in response to the Advisory Action.

With respect to claim 13, the Examiner states that the statement "the CAC is not located along the path between the end stations." The Examiner appears to be confused, as this was not an argument presented by Applicants, but rather a quote from the Examiner in the after-final amendment. Applicant's request further explanation.

With respect to claim 9, the Examiner states that the statement "in Gardner, the cross connect is already interconnected to the processor and the interworking unit, thereby not requiring any setup" cannot be found as a limitation in claim 9. Again, Applicant's respectfully disagree. Claim 9 clearly states "**setting up** a communications link..." and therefore is already limited and distinguishes from Gardner's teaching.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122025100.

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Respectfully submitted,

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